



The Vermont Legislative Research Shop

In addition, the U.S. state department presents The Award for Corporate Excellence every year based on certain factors compiled by the Chief of Missions of U.S. diplomatic posts that businesses must follow. These factors are:

- Good corporate citizenship
- Provision for a safe and healthy workplace
- Exemplary employment practices
- Environmental protection and practices
- Contribution to the overall growth and development of the local economy
- Implementation of activities that are compatible with local science and technology policies while contributing to the development of in-couheallyn-cnoviblvconapatiz

The World Bank published a report regarding the best ways governments can promote Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe and Central Asia, which can be applied to state governments in the United States. Basically, businesses agreed that their perceived “loss of competitiveness” and other potential losses could be reduced if the government had concrete, clear and predictable policies and financial incentives to promote social responsibility. Businesses seemed to greatly doubt the government’s policies, and expect that there would be hidden costs and liabilities.

One way to avoid confusion is to set numerical or quantitative objections that can be easily monitored. For example, establish goals regarding “the types of activities; the numbers and types of beneficiaries of these activities; the diversity of businesses involved...and the continuity with which corporate social responsibility practices are used” (The Development Communication Division, The World Bank, p. 27, 2005). The government and policy makers try to alter the actions of corporations to encourage social responsibility by paying extra attention to businesses who are not abiding by the laws and regulation and enforcing penalties to those that don’t; enforcing “tax incentives, technical assistance”, encouraging communication between business and civil society and “raising public and corporate awareness” (p. 28). Another recommendation is combining the public and businesses’ funds to gain more money, exchange ideas to implement social responsibility in the corporations. Finally, raising public awareness of business practices, can promote social responsibility by giving good exposure and praise to the company.

Organizationally, a government can make a separate agency for corporate social responsibility or add it to an existing agency such as one that handles policy implementation. Regardless it seems as though, “developing mandated actions and monitoring compliance and enforcement” would also be financed by the state. Sharing these costs, however with businesses will depend on whether policies are implemented that encourage a joint venture (The Development Communication Division, The World Bank, 2005)

The US Embassy in Prague provided a number of workshops and seminars to community foundations, NGO’s, and businesses with steps to implement corporate social responsibility into their communities and organizations (Embassy Events).

The Commissions European Social Agenda, which is supported by the European Council in Nice, was invited to gather companies to meet with social partners, local authorities, NGO’s, and organizations that handle social services, in order to strengthen social corporate responsibility. They discuss sustainable development and public policy, which are important topic of social corporate responsibility. Public Policy plays a significant role in promoting social corporate responsibility and creating a structure to guarantee that businesses are concerned with social and environmental issues and including them in their activities and guidelines. Also, companies, organizations, and the government look for ways to produce products and services to encourage health and safety. There are ways to record the safety of these products to be able to document and advertise these ‘responsible’ products (European Commission).

Resources

Congressional Human Rights Caucus, 2005, “Corpor

World Bank, 2002, "Americas E-forum on Corporate Social Responsibility." Retrieved February 28, 2006, from the World Bank Website:
http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/WBI/WBIPROGRAMS/CGC_RLP/0,,contentMDK:20263509~pagePK:64156158~piPK:64152884~theSitePK:460861,00.html

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Disclaimer: The report was prepared by undergraduate students at the University of Vermont under the supervision of Professor Anthony Gierzynski. The material contained in this report does not reflect official policy of the University of Vermont

